

KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDE and PRACTICES (KAP) on Skin Infection amongst Slum Dwellers

**Purnima Santosh Kumar Singh, Tuba Tanveer, Dr. Shazina Saeed
Dr. Aanchal Anant Awasthi and Dr. Rajiv Janardhanan**

*Amity Institute of Public Health
Amity University, Noida, Uttar Pradesh*

Introduction

KAP study on skin infection shows high prevalence of skin infections amongst slum dweller. Skin infection is affecting human population as approximately 300million people are affected yearly.

The current research was done to investigate the knowledge, attitude and practices of people regarding skin infections among people residing in slums.

Methods

A cross-sectional descriptive study was conducted amongst people of age group 15-63 in different slums of Delhi & NCR. Subjects were interviewed based on a self constructed questionnaire. This questionnaire collects information on socio-demographic data, prevalence & levels of awareness of skin infection. Data was analysed using Microsoft EXCEL & SPSS version. Data were represented using descriptive statistics. Chi square test was used to study association between categorical variables. A $p < 0.05$ was considered to be statistically significant.

Results

Out of 103 participants, 54 (52.4%) were male, 48 (46.6%) were female & 1(1%) was Transgender. This study portrays that 52.4% of the participants had some or the other symptom on skin. 44.4% of participants had skin infection in which Auto-immune being highly prevalent counting to 38.8% followed by fungal 37% and other infection. Also 74.8% of the slum dweller had knowledge of skin infections whereas 25.2% were absolutely unaware of it. Also 61.1% people agreed and 12.6% strongly agreed that sharing personal belongings would create skin infection. Also 54.3% considered it to be a social taboo. Similarly, 78.6% people think it may cause emotional distress. Among 54 participants who had infection, 77.7% of people took medication. Allopathy (83.3%) was preferred as a treatment option as compare to AYUSH (16.7%). 51.4% of people would take preventive measures (using Neem water or Dettol water to bath daily). Our study, also shows that lack of awareness is (62.1%) responsible for low skin hygiene among slum dwellers

Conclusion

This study indicates high prevalence of skin infections amongst slum dwellers. Lack of awareness was reported as major reason of it. Hence we suggest to conduct Dermatology Community Programmes to increase the awareness among slum dwellers.